

BBC



Rome

A BRIEF GUIDE TO ACCOMPANY THE
TV SERIES *ROME UNPACKED*



Rome



Thousands of years ago, the Romans called Rome *Caput Mundi: Capital of the World.*

Today, Rome is still a capital in more ways than one. It was declared the capital of the newly formed Kingdom of Italy in 1871 and remained the capital when Italy became a republic. Rome is the capital city

of the Lazio region and within its boundaries lies the Vatican City, headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. The city is also the seat of government, as well as hosting the head offices of businesses, both Italian and international. It is a centre of excellence for Italian design, fashion and film.

As one of the most highly populated cities in Italy, Rome has over 2,800,000 inhabitants spread over 1,285 square kilometres. Modern Rome is built on the foundations of many past civilisations. Legend tells that the city was founded by Romulus and Remus, twin boys suckled by a she-wolf, however its real origins lay in settlements established around 753 BC.

Every period of Rome's history has left its mark on this city. Republican Rome, (circa 509 BC to 27 BC) was evoked by the remains of the Roman Forum, which was a focus of life in ancient Rome. Imperial Rome began with the emperor Augustus in 27 BC and split three centuries later into West and East (the Byzantine Empire), a divide which ultimately led to Rome's decline. The legacy of Imperial Rome remains in monuments such as the Pantheon, the Colosseum and the Domus Aurea.





The city of Rome continued to forge its identity through successive ages, a journey from the early Christian period and the Middle Ages, through the Renaissance, to the Counter-Reformation, Napoleonic occupation, the Risorgimento and finally the Italian unification in the 19th century.

A constant presence throughout, and a dominant influence, was the Papacy. Renaissance Popes in particular vied with each other to leave monuments which would testify to their power and wealth. The simplicity of early Christian churches gave way to grand Renaissance buildings and then to the Baroque treasures seen at their best in Bernini's Quattro Fiumi fountain in Piazza Navona, and his sweeping colonades at St Peter's Basilica, Nicola Salvi's Trevi Fountain, and the white marble steps of Trinità dei Monti.

Centuries later, Mussolini's attempts, at the height of Fascist power, to emulate the glories of ancient Rome can be seen in the Via dei Fori Imperiali (opened in 1932 as the Via dell'Impero) which destroyed a large part of the imperial Rome it was designed to showcase.

Finally, the importance of the Church in Rome can never be forgotten, with the existence of a separate nation state, Vatican City, inside its city walls. The grandeur of St Peter's Basilica is a testimony to the status and power of the Roman Catholic Church.

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Anna joined the School of Languages at The Open University in September 2006. She has worked as a translator and interpreter as well as authoring several Italian language texts aimed at adult learners. Anna's research focusses on aspects of language learning in the online environment.

Find out more about Anna's academic experience and profile: <http://www.open.ac.uk/people/cr4397>





Monti

The centre of Monti is just a 10 minute walk from the Colosseum. Alternatively, it's 7 minutes by bus (no 117) or one stop on the metro (line B), to 'Cavour'.

- I** A Monti, si incontrano la Roma antica e la Roma *cool*. Il rione è collocato tra quattro dei sette colli su cui venne fondata Roma. Di giorno si possono visitare i monumenti della Roma antica, come il Colosseo o la Domus Aurea, e la sera frequentare i bar di piazza Madonna dei Monti.
- E** Ancient Rome meets cool Rome in the Monti district. Monti ('hills') sits between four of the seven hills on which Rome was founded. By day you can visit the iconic monuments of Ancient Rome, such as the Colosseum or the Domus Aurea, and in the evening hang out at the lively bars in Piazza Madonna dei Monti.
- I** Ai tempi medioevali Monti era un rione povero e popoloso, famoso per le sue locande malfamate, e infatti i nomi delle strade e dei vicoli ci ricordano il suo passato, ad esempio, via degli Zingari, via dei Serpenti, vicolo delle Carrette.
- E** In medieval times, Monti was a poor and over-populated district, famous for its inns of ill repute. The names of the streets in this area still remind us of its past, for example Via degli Zingari [*Street of Gypsies*], Via dei Serpenti [*Street of the Snakes*], Vicolo delle Carrette [*Alley of the Carts*].
- I** Da vedere anche la Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano e la Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore, due delle quattro basiliche papali, le chiese fondate dai Papi.
- E** Other sights to see include San Giovanni in Laterano and Santa Maria Maggiore, two of the four Papal basilicas, the churches founded by Popes.

Scalinata di Trinità dei Monti

Spanish Steps

Dipinto, chiesa della
Santissima Trinità dei Monti

Painting, church of the
Santissima Trinita dei Monti

Did you know?

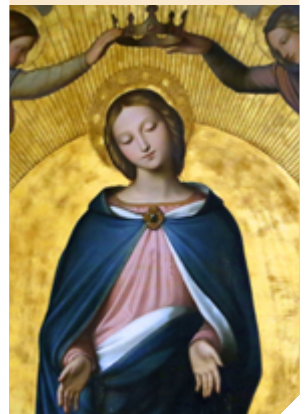
La Casa Santa Sofia, gestita dalle Suore Catechiste di Sant'Anna, un ordine religioso di origine ucraina, è una delle tante istituzioni religiose ospitare viaggiatori.

The Casa Santa Sofia, run by the Sisters of Sant'Anna, a religious order of Ukrainian origin, is one of many religious institutions in Rome that offer accommodation to travellers.

Nearby

Scendete lungo la via dei Fori Imperiali, costruita da Mussolini nel 1932. Purtroppo, la maggior parte dei Fori fu distrutta proprio per costruire la via.

Walk down the Via dei Fori Imperiali, built by Mussolini in 1932. Unfortunately, most of the imperial Forums were destroyed in order to build it.





Trastevere

For a different glimpse of Rome, head for Trastevere. Across the river from Monti, it can be reached by public transport (bus H from Termini or tram 8 from Piazza Venezia).

Trastevere, in origine abitato dagli etruschi, significa letteralmente 'il luogo al di là del Tevere', mentre la vera e propria Roma si è sviluppata sulla sponda opposta. Il quartiere è famoso per la sua vita notturna ed è apparso in innumerevoli film che raccontano la 'dolce vita'.

- E** Trastevere, originally inhabited by the Etruscans, literally means 'the place across the Tiber'; Rome itself developed on the opposite bank. Famous for its nightlife, Trastevere has appeared in countless films illustrating the 'dolce vita'.

Vale la pena di esplorare il mercato delle pulci di Porta Portese, che ha luogo ogni domenica mattina.. Da non perdere sono anche la chiesa e la piazza di Santa Maria in Trastevere, Villa Farnesina, Piazza Trilussa e i caratteristici vicoli. Dovunque compare la testa di leone che è il simbolo di Trastevere e della fierezza dei suoi abitanti.

- E** The flea market of Porta Portese takes place every Sunday morning and is worth exploring. Other 'musts' are the church and *piazza* of Santa Maria in Trastevere, Villa Farnesina, piazza Trilussa and the characteristic little streets. The ubiquitous lion's head is the symbol of Trastevere, representing the fierce pride of its inhabitants.

L'Orto botanico, proprio al centro del quartiere, è un'oasi di verde che si estende per 12 ettari.

- E** The Botanic Garden, right in the centre of Trastevere, is a green oasis of 12 hectares.

Trastevere notte

Trastevere District at night

Ristorante Trastevere

Trastevere restaurant

Did you know?

Nascosto ad otto metri di profondità rispetto al livello stradale, c'è l'Excubitorium, la caserma dei vigili del fuoco della Settima Coorte. Risale alla fine del II secolo d.C. ma fu scoperta solo nel tardo Ottocento.

Hidden eight metres below street level, is the Roman Excubitorium, the fire station of the 7th cohort. Dating from the 2nd century AD, it was only discovered in the late 19th century.

Nearby

Salendo la Rampa della Quercia si arriva al Colle Gianicolo, simbolo dell'identità italiana (e romana) e alla splendida Fontana dell'Acqua Paola, di Papa Paolo V.

Up the steep Rampa della Quercia lies the Janiculum hill, symbol of Italian (and Roman) identity, and the magnificent Acqua Paola, the fountain of Pope Paul V.





Isola Tiberina

Consider visiting the Isola Tiberina with either Trastevere, crossing the river at Ponte Cestio (5 minutes walk) or the Jewish Ghetto, crossing the river at Ponte Fabricio (4 minutes walk)

- I** Secondo la leggenda, l'Isola Tiberina, cioè isola del Tevere, si formò nel 510 a.C. Nel primo secolo a.C. le fu data la forma di una nave, la prua della quale si può distinguere ancora chiaramente.
- E** According to legend, the Isola Tiberina was formed in 510 BC. In the 1st century BC, the island was sculpted into the shape of a ship, the prow of which you can still clearly distinguish today.
- I** Nei tempi antichi, vi si trovava un tempio dedicato a Esculapio, il dio della medicina, e ancor oggi l'isola ospita uno dei più noti ospedali di Roma, il Fatebenefratelli.
- E** In ancient times there was a temple to Aesculapius, the god of medicine, on the Isola Tiberina. The island still houses one of Rome's best-known hospitals, the Fatebenefratelli.
- I** Vi si possono visitare anche due bellissime chiese: la Basilica di San Bartolomeo, edificata dall'imperatore Ottone III nell'anno 1000 d.C. e la chiesa del sedicesimo secolo dedicata a San Giovanni Calabita e accorpata agli edifici dell'ospedale.
- E** There are also two beautiful churches to visit, San Bartolomeo, built by the Emperor Ottone III in 1000 AD and the 16th century church of San Giovanni Calibita, incorporated into the hospital buildings.

Isola Tiberina

Ponte Cestio

Isola Tiberina

Ponte Cestio Bridge

Did you know?

Nella chiesa di San Giovanni Calibita si conserva l'immagine della Madonna della Lampada. Secondo la tradizione, nel 1557 l'immagine fu sommersa dallo straripamento del Tevere, ma la lampada votiva continuò a brillare sott'acqua.

An image in San Giovanni Calibita depicts the Madonna della Lampada. According to legend, the painting was submerged when the Tiber overflowed its banks in 1557, but its votive lamp continued to shine under water.

Nearby

Attraversate il Ponte Fabricio e andate a vedere il Teatro di Marcello e la sinagoga di Roma, costruita nel 1904 in seguito alla ricostruzione del Ghetto Ebraico.

Cross the Ponte Fabricio to visit the Theatre of Marcellus and the Great Synagogue of Rome, built in 1904 following the reconstruction of the Jewish Ghetto.



Rome

1 Sistine Chapel (St Peter's)

The Sistine Chapel, in the Apostolic Palace, world famous for the frescoes on its ceiling painted by Michelangelo.

2 Colosseum (Monti)

Commissioned in 72 A.D. by the Emperor Vespasian, it staged gladiator fights and wild animal fights for public entertainment and held 55,000 spectators.

3 Porta Portese market (Trastevere)

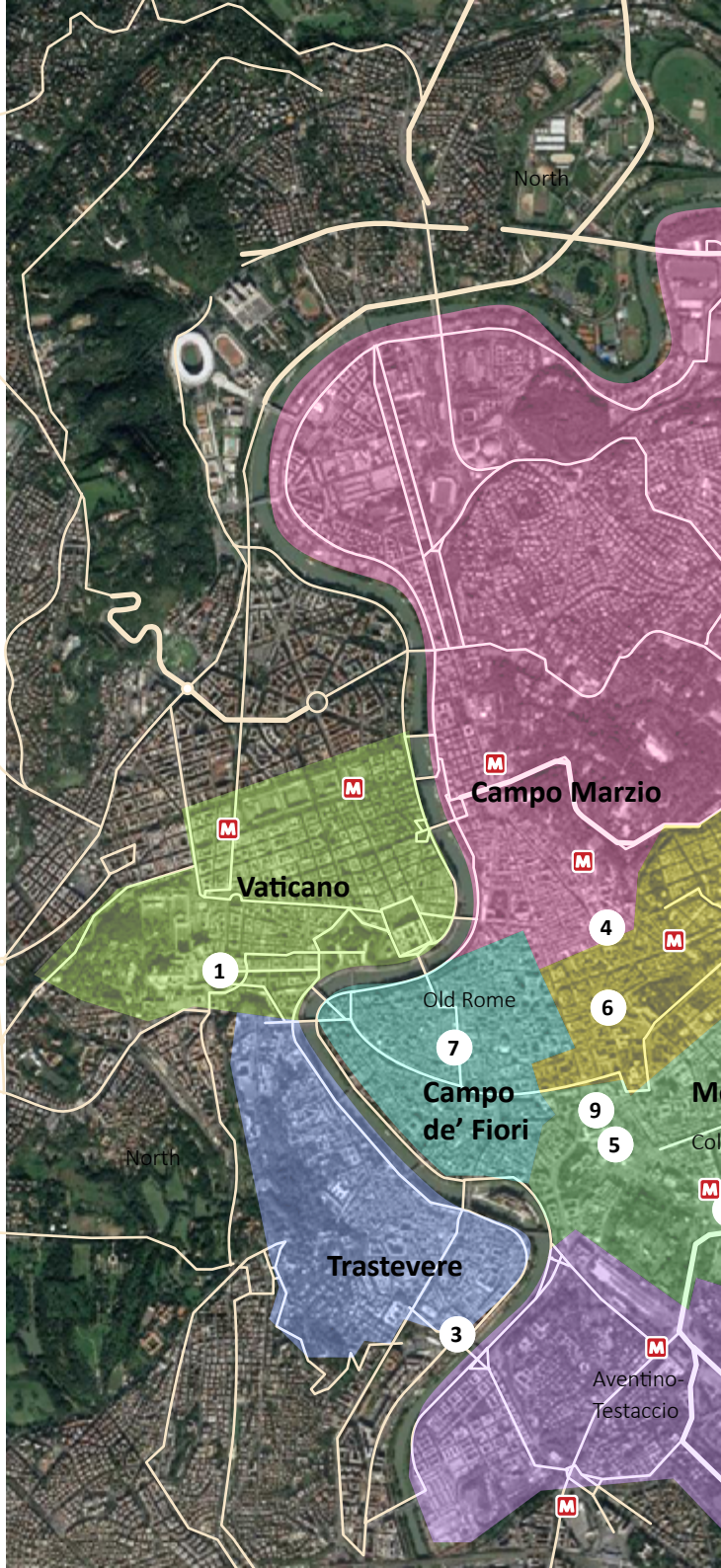
Open only on Sunday mornings, you can find everything on its stalls: new and old, vintage clothes, furniture and bric-a-brac.

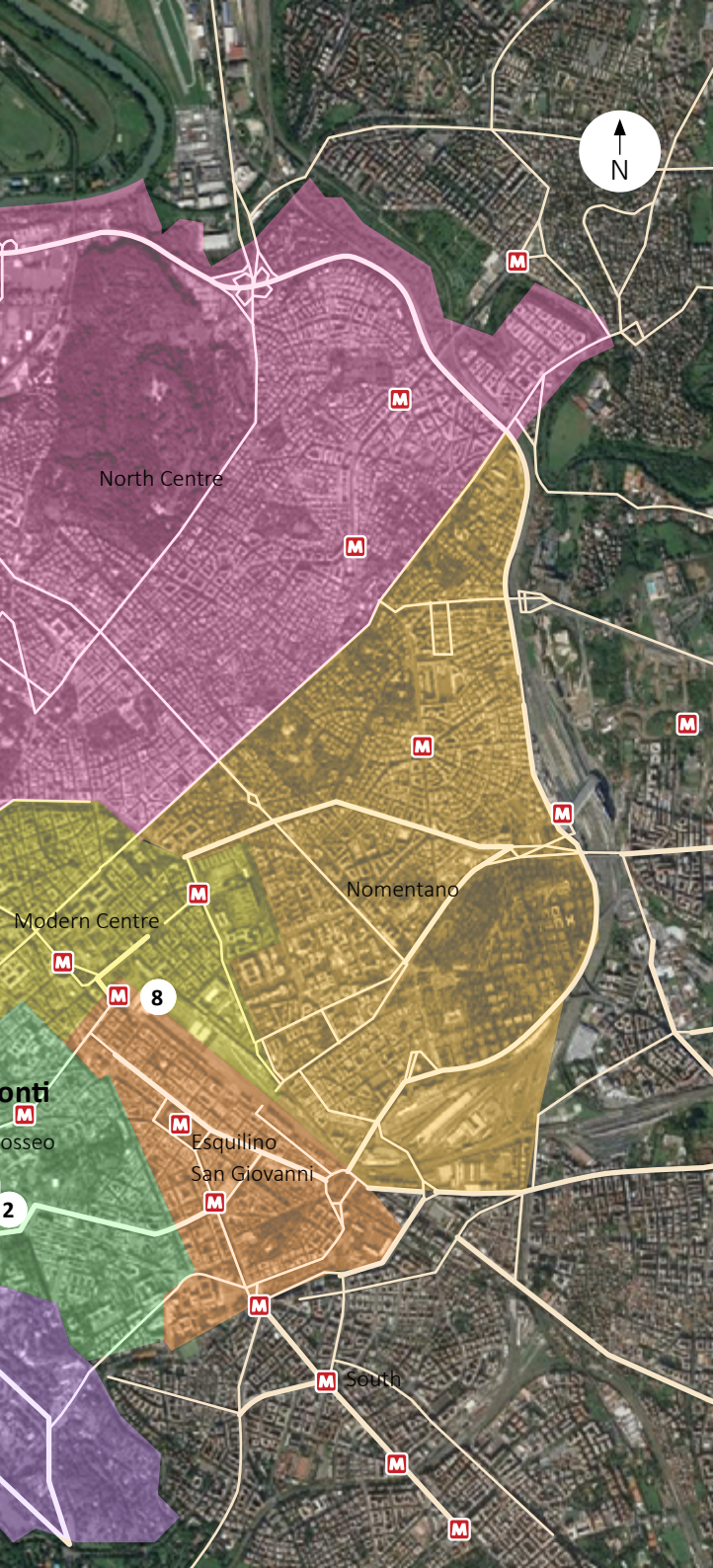
4 Spanish Steps (Campo Marzio)

Designed by Francesco de Sanctis in 1723, the steep white marble steps lead up from the Piazza di Spagna to the Piazza Trinità Monti.

5 Roman Forum (Campitelli)

The marketplace of ancient Rome and centre of business and civic life, its origins go back to the 6th century BC.





6 Trevi Fountain (Trevi)

Designed by Nicola Salvi, but remembered by many as the place where the young Anita Ekberg bathed, in Fellini's film *Dolce Vita*.

7 Piazza Navona (Parione)

The centrepiece of this elegant oval piazza is Gian Lorenzo Bernini's *Quattro Fiumi* fountain (1651), whose giant statues represent the world's four greatest rivers.

8 Termini (Esquilino)

With trains for both north and south, as well as international services, Termini station is an important hub in the Italian state railway system.

9 Altare della Patria monument (Trevi)

Also known as the *Vittoriano*, it was designed in 1885 in honour of Victor Emanuel II, first king of a united Italy.



Campo Marzio

Aiming towards the Spanish Steps, head west from Termini. It will take about 24 minutes on foot. You can also take the Metro line A to Barberini (14 minutes).

- I** Nell'antica Roma, questa zona era utilizzata per le esercitazioni militari da cui il nome di 'Campo di Marte' (il dio della guerra). Qui l'imperatore Augusto fece costruire l'Ara Pacis cioè l'altare della Pace (ora conservata in una controversa costruzione di marmo e vetro ad opera di Richard Meier).
- E** In ancient Rome, this area was used for military exercises, hence the name of Campo di Marte (after Mars, the god of war). Here the Emperor Augustus built his Ara Pacis or Altar of Peace (now conserved in Richard Meier's controversial marble and glass structure).
- I** Nel medioevo, Campo Marzio era il quartiere più popoloso di Roma. L'antica via Lata risistemata nel Quattrocento da Papa Paolo II divenne poi via del Corso, oggi famosa per lo shopping e il passeggio serale.
- E** In the Middle Ages, Campo Marzio was the most populated area of Rome. The old Via Lata, modified by Pope Paul II in the 15th century, became Via del Corso, which is now known for shopping and evening strolls.
- I** La Scalinata di Trinità dei Monti, costruita tra il 1723 e il 1726, deriva il suo nome dalla chiesa che si trova alla sua sommità. Questa famosa gradinata scende verso Piazza di Spagna e per questo in inglese viene chiamata 'Spanish steps'.
- E** The Scalinata di Trinità dei Monti, built between 1723 and 1726, takes its name from the Church of Trinità dei Monti which stands at the top. The iconic steps lead down to Piazza di Spagna, hence the English name 'Spanish Steps'.

L'Ara Pacis Augustae

The Ara Pacis Augustae

La Dolce Vita di Fellini

Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*

Did you know?

Il Tridente è il nome dato alle tre vie rettilinee che partono da Piazza del Popolo e divergono in direzione sud, assumendo la forma di un tridente. Sono via del Corso, via del Babuino, via di Ripetta.

The Trident is the name given to the three straight streets which start in piazza del Popolo and diverge as they head south. They are Via del Corso, Via del Babuino, Via di Ripetta.

Nearby

Le strade intorno alla pittoresca via Margutta, un tempo abitata da artisti, registi e pittori, sono lastricate con i tipici ciottoli romani, i cosiddetti 'sampietrini'.

The streets of picturesque Via Margutta, once home to artists, film directors and painters, are paved with the typical Roman cobblestones known as the 'sampietrini'.





San Pietro

With no metro stop nearby, this area is not easy to get to by public transport. You can walk from Piazza Navona (35 minutes) or get the 64 bus from Corso Vittorio Emanuele (15 minutes).

- I** Nella città del Vaticano, la Basilica di San Pietro è il simbolo per eccellenza della cristianità, che la tradizione vuole costruita nel punto esatto in cui fu sepolto l'apostolo Pietro, tra il 64 e il 68 d.C. La basilica attuale è una delle quattro basiliche papali e fu costruita tra il 1506 e il 1626, sulle fondamenta di una chiesa precedente voluta dall'Imperatore Costantino nel IV secolo.
- E** St Peter's Basilica, in the Vatican City state, is the iconic symbol of Christianity, built, so tradition relates, on the spot where the apostle Peter was buried between 64 and 68 AD. The current basilica was built between 1506 and 1626, replacing an earlier church commissioned by Emperor Constantine in the 4th century, and is one of Rome's four Papal basilicas.
- I** San Pietro ospita molte opere d'arte famose, tra cui la Pietà di Michelangelo e alcune opere di Bernini. Nel Seicento Bernini creò il doppio ordine di colonne di fronte alla basilica allargato come delle braccia simbolicamente aperte ad accogliere i pellegrini.
- E** It houses many famous works, including Michelangelo's Pietà and works by Bernini. In the 17th century, Bernini created the colonnades in front of the Basilica whose open arms were intended symbolically to embrace and welcome pilgrims.

Did you know?

La superficie di San Pietro è di oltre 23.000 metri quadrati, rendendola una delle più grandi chiese del mondo. Ha 45 altari e 11 cappelle.

The surface area of San Pietro is over 23,000 square metres, making it one of the largest churches in the world. It has 45 altars and 11 chapels.

Nearby

La Cappella Sistina, nel palazzo apostolico, è uno dei più famosi tesori artistici in Italia. La volta e la parete di fondo sono decorate con gli affreschi di Michelangelo.

The Sistine Chapel, in the apostolic palace, is one of the greatest artistic treasures in Italy. Its walls and ceiling are decorated with Michelangelo's frescoes.



Basilica di San Pietro

Affresco nella Cappella Sistina

St Peter's Basilica

Sistine Chapel fresco



Campo de' Fiori

Campo de' Fiori is easy to get to. From Piazza Navona, it's only 8 minutes on foot. From St Peter's Basilica it's 28 minutes. From Termini, you can catch the 64 bus.

- I** Campo de' Fiori è una piazza piena di vita che dalla prima mattina fino all'ora di pranzo ospita un vivace mercato di fiori, frutta e verdure, mentre dopo il tramonto attrae frotte di giovani romani e di turisti nei locali che vi si affacciano.
- E** From early morning until lunchtime, Campo de' Fiori is a bustling *piazza*, with a lively flower, fruit and vegetable market. After sunset, it draws crowds of young Romans and tourists to its bars.
- I** Il nome della piazza probabilmente non deriva dal mercato dei fiori bensì dal fatto che fino a metà del Quattrocento non faceva ancora parte della città, ma era soltanto un prato fiorito. Nei vicoli vicini si stabilirono botteghe artigianali molte delle quali conservano ancor oggi un aspetto medioevale.
- E** Its name probably comes not from the flower market but from the fact that, up until the mid-15th century, it was a field of flowers, before becoming part of the city. The alleys near the *campo* housed craftsmen's shops and many still retain their medieval appearance today.
- I** Quando Callisto III fece lastricare la piazza, tutta l'area fu rivitalizzata e furono costruiti i primi palazzi nobiliari. Campo de' Fiori è stato anche il luogo principale per le pubbliche esecuzioni capitali a Roma.
- E** When Pope Callisto III had the *piazza* paved, the entire area became revitalised and the first noble palaces were built. Campo de' Fiori was also the main venue for public executions in Rome.

Campo de' Fiori mercatino

Campo de' Fiori market

Largo di Torre Argentina

Largo di Torre Argentina

Did you know?

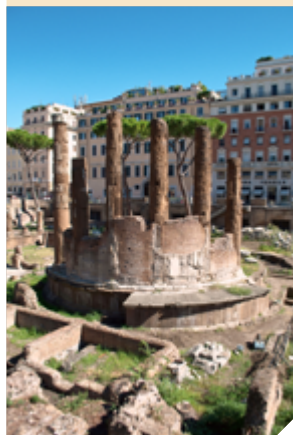
In questo luogo nel Seicento, fu bruciato sul rogo come eretico Giordano Bruno, filosofo e monaco domenicano. Una statua al centro della piazza lo ricorda.

In the 17th century the monk philosopher Giordano Bruno was burnt at the stake here for heresy. A statue at the centre of the square commemorates him.

Nearby

In Largo di Torre Argentina sono visibili i resti di quattro templi romani di epoca repubblicana, oltre a quelli del Teatro di Pompeo dove fu assassinato Giulio Cesare.

In Largo di Torre Argentina, you can see the remains of four Roman temples of the Republican era and also those of the Theatre of Pompey, where Julius Caesar was assassinated.



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Andante: beginners' Italian (L195)

This introductory OU level 1 module is designed to give you the skills you need to speak and understand simple Italian in everyday contexts. The module takes you through a wide range of practical situations such as travelling, shopping, working and eating out in Italy. Study resources include printed materials and a dedicated website with a variety of online activities which support your independent learning. Together, they'll give you not just language skills but a real feel for Italian society and culture too.

Vivace: intermediate Italian (L150)

Vivace: intermediate Italian follows on from Andante: beginners' Italian (L195). It revises and consolidates your knowledge of Italian and teaches more advanced language in the context of society and culture in Italian-speaking communities. It offers insights into many aspects of everyday life in modern Italy, so you'll have a better understanding of issues that concern Italian people. The study resources – including printed materials and a variety of online resources – are carefully designed to develop the four language skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. They provide clear learning objectives, guidance and model answers. This key introductory OU level 1 module also teaches good study skills and language-learning strategies.

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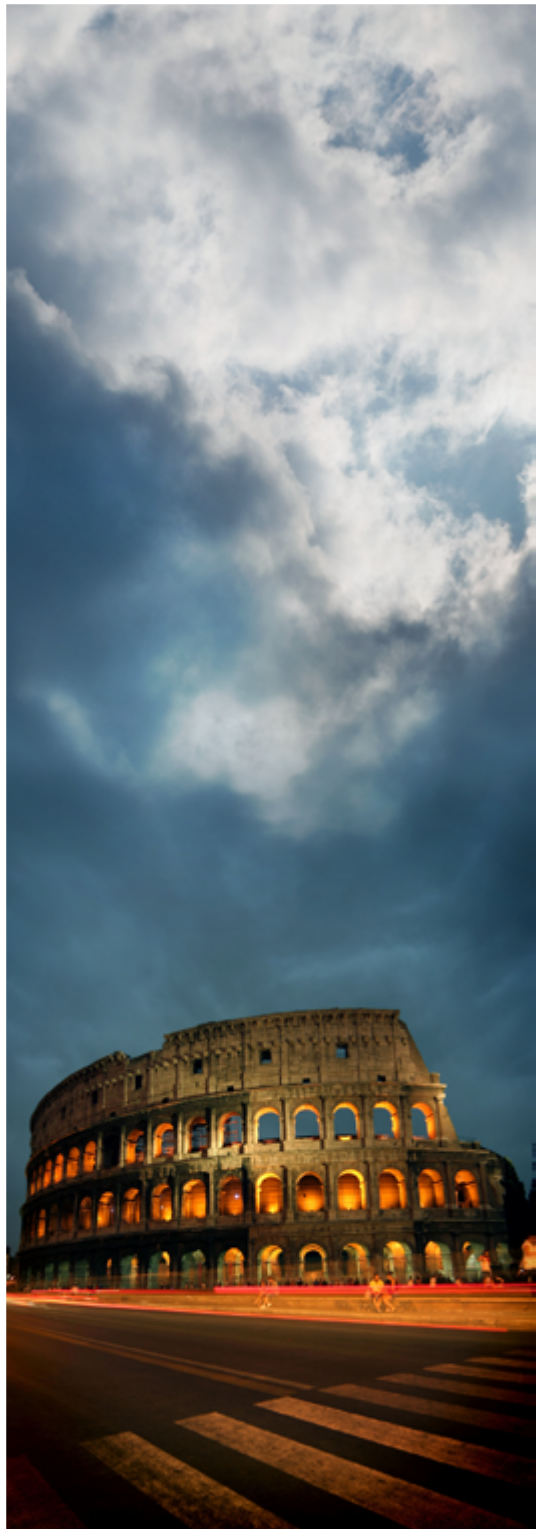
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